

Gemology Online Presents: A Chat with Vincent Pardieu, November 28, 2010



[vincent pardieu] franck, I got this afternoon some serious network problems..

[vincent pardieu] I hope that my connection will last all the chat.

[FranQ] we'll just go along with them best we can Vincent

[vincent pardieu] Ok, fine...

[FranQ] we're used to people having bad connections...was me until a few months ago

[pixette] Hi Frank - can i say just before we start - really sorry but will have to leave at 2...its my first time chatting - so at least now i know how to di it. Will be back for more..loving it already.

[AfriQanuck] i have a question for vincent

[TimQ] Barbra said she would try to make it... dunno if I should call and wake her....

[FranQ] ok Pixette

[vincent pardieu] Good by Pixette..

[FranQ] maybe I got her time wrong to

[AfriQanuck] you have an hour yet, right pix?

[vincent pardieu] Ok Africanuck... Open the show!

[[pixette](#)] yes still got one hour

[[AfriQanuck](#)] have the glass filled star rubies hit the market yet?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Yes, there are some around.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I saw some in Afghanistan in july...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] they get on that quickly, don't they?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] easy to spot?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] easy to spot when you know what to look for...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] My grand mother will have some problems to spot them.

[[TimQ](#)] heh

[[TimQ](#)] how's the star on 'm?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] the star is usually very much like in natural stones.

[[FranQ](#)] and the clarity?

[[FranQ](#)] clarity

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well clarity it depends...

User *maialetto* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I explained that already in a big pdf online on the GIA websites.:p

[[TimQ](#)]

[[Jung_Kee](#)] send

[[pixette](#)] i have a weird composite star sapphire from afgjanistan brought to me from a friend who was physio to the troops...very strange looking ..she was very upset when i told her.. she gave it to me about 9 months ago!?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] but anyway, no problem...

[[alberto](#)] there's an improvement about filler stability/durability?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] composite star sapphire?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] You mean a doublet?

[[pixette](#)] It looked like it was... i showed it to pat at GemA

[[pixette](#)] I donated a sample

[[pixette](#)] Yes a doublet

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Some doublets can be very convincing...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But nothing new...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Nevertheless it is a type of stone that can mistake even a good gemologist when he is not careful...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Many people forget to check the girdle...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Alberto, can you detail your question?

[[alberto](#)] my question was related to all glass filled material, any recent changes in filler composition?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well probably...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] As I said since 2005 there are many companies doing this treatment...

[[alberto](#)] in order to give more stability to acids, pickling solutions and so on

[[vincent pardieu](#)] each of them are doing their own research and try to adapt to the needs of their customers.

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Return to rubies: Is the colour improved by the filling and is the inclusions typical of glass filling in normal (non-asterism) stones?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I guess that if you fill a pink stone with a red glass it might improve the color...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] now if the glass is colorless, then I dont think so...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] it all depends of the glass used by the burner

[[pixette](#)] bubbles?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Pixette: depends of the burner...

[[TimQ](#)] does a red glass filler mess up the ruby spectrum?

[[pixette](#)] sometimes no bubbles?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] some burners produce stones with many bubbles, some other with few bubbles.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I've never seen a lead glass filled ruby with a red glass...

[[TimQ](#)] ah ok

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But who knows? it might happen in the future.

[[Jung_Kee](#)] I've seen with orange glass, took out the brownish tint

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Usually the glass goes from colorless to yellowish or orangy...

[[TimQ](#)] heh

[[pixette](#)] Question: so how do you detect glass in cab star ruby if there are no bubbles...? is it difficult to see flash?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] again there are many companies doing this treatment, some work on Mozambique rubies, other on Madagascar rubies, others on Burmese,...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] they use different temperatures, different glass...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] you can have a wide range of final material... It can be compared with emeralds as there also you have many different types of stones and several different types of fillers...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Pixette: Well usually there are some bubbles, then there are also possibly some blue/orange flashes... then in a lab like GIA we check the chemistry on all rubies and then we spot easily the presence of lead or bismuth,...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Pixette: I explained all that in detail in several studies already online...

[[pixette](#)] ok thanks will look it up

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Question: Are lead and bismuth the only elements that elevate RI in filler materials?

User *Annie* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well no Barium is also used if I remember well...

[[TimQ](#)] Hi Annie!

[[alberto](#)] so, to close with my question, for what you know the filler stability is still an issue nowadays?

[[Annie](#)] hello all

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But well who knows: As I repeat, the glass composition is different from burner to burner and also from material from this origin to material from that origin...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The same burner might use different glass for different stones...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] At least this is what they told me...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] since 2005...

[[Jung_Kee](#)] I think we can rephrase alberto's question like this: Is there any filling that don't melt in acid?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well for me the story is simple...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Alberto...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Lead glass filled rubies are not a gemological problem.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] They are very easy to detect for any lab or any experienced gemologist..

[[AfriQanuck](#)] question

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The problem withall glass filled stones is that the glass can be damaged easily.

[[FranQ](#)] yes Canuck

[[alberto](#)] sorry Vincent but i usually give lectures to goldsmiths and i would only to be updated about the warning i must release to them about how to handle the stones

[[vincent pardieu](#)] then it is not like a ruby heated with borax...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] In the case of borax, the fissures are usually healed...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] with glass (lead or not) they are only filled...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] and the stones can thus get damaged...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] so the treatment should be disclosed by the dealers.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The problem is that in many cases the treatment is not disclosed..

[[FranQ](#)] Canuck...you have a question?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] Are there any new developments in Thailand that you have heard about that ARE going to be a problem to discern?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] then some jewellers damage stones by mistake while they do some jewelry repair...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So it is a trade problem... but if all the people buying rubies were asking their stones to be checked, the problem would not exist...

User *phyllisQ* has logged out.

User *phyllisQ* has entered this room.

[[phyllisQ](#)] just got disconnected... I am testing only to see I am still ok..

User *Barbra* has entered this room.

[[FranQ](#)] ok Phyllis

[[TimQ](#)] ghe

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The problem is that many people dont have any idea about what they sell and that many people have no idea about what they buy.... and the bigger problem is that most of the time they dont care... until they get a problem..

[[TimQ](#)] I hope someone else is logging too...

[[TimQ](#)] Good morning Barbra

[[AfriQanuck](#)] I will log as well

[[FranQ](#)] Julie is on it...I cant make it work

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I'm back...

[[Barbra](#)] morning

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I lost all the chat...

User *mb1* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Hi Barbra...

[[FranQ](#)] It's ok Vincent were logging it we can send you a copy later

[[Barbra](#)] Hello..is this chat room not working well?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] no problem...

[[FranQ](#)] Africanuck asked [[AfriQanuck](#)] Are there any new developments in Thailand that you have heard about that ARE going to be a problem to discern

[[AfriQanuck](#)] so, my earlier question was: are there any new developments heading our way that are going to be a problem to discern

[[TimQ](#)] it is, some of us have wobbly connections

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Franck and Africanuck, not to my knowledge...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But well Thailand is not the only place where people develop treatments...

[[FranQ](#)] Now that you are working for GIA are they helping to sponsor your travels and to what extent are they using you to source stones direct from the mine

[[FranQ](#)] for origin studies?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well Franck of course I'm leading expeditions for the GIA and the goal of these expeditions is to get reference samples for the GIA.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] GIA is covering my travel expenses of course...

[[TimQ](#)] lucky sod

[[FranQ](#)] last time you were here your travels were self sponsored...nice to know that you're getting help with it these days

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well last time I was not officially "Supervisor Field Gemology" at the GIA...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] did they take that title right off your website?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I think that when we did the last chat I was just a gemologist at the AIGS

[[Jung_Kee](#)] "just"

[[TimQ](#)] what's your next destination, Vincent?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well Ken Scarratt asked me which title I wanted, I told him "something like supervisor or director field gemology" I got supervisor...LOL

[[vincent pardieu](#)] My next destinations are always a little bit secret...

[[vincent pardieu](#)]

[[TimQ](#)] righto

[[FranQ](#)] what about Dicks rule that the closer to the mine the more likely to get offered synthetics...do you find that still the case?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] No it is not secret I will go to visit gem mines in Thailand...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] as it is winter, it is the right time.

[[TimQ](#)] yups

[[phyllisQ](#)] do you organise field trips for people?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] No

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Which gems of commercial importance are mined in Thailand nowadays?

[[TimQ](#)] one at a time ppl

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I was for 10 years a tour guide, but not anymore...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] nevertheless I all the time travel with people...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But I dont organise field expedition for people. Lets say that I allow some people to come with me on the expeditions I lead for the GIA.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] JunG Kee: Sapphires of course...

[[phyllisQ](#)] Anyone can join you?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] You should know that, If I'm not wrong you are often in Chanthaburi...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] There are more than 10 sapphires mines less than 20 kilometers from the Chanthaburi gem market...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Yes people can join me...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] but there are some rules...

[[TimQ](#)] cool, when do we leave?

[[TimQ](#)]

User *maialetto* has logged out.

User *maialetto* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] My rule number One is: Never travel to gem mines with people you dont know.

[[pixette](#)] I'm in Thailand June / July

[[AfriQanuck](#)] hehehe for rule number one

[[Jung_Kee](#)] So basically, you want a beer before we go?

[[pixette](#)] question: I am aware that there are a lot of synthetics, glass filled and surface diffusion treatments in Sri Lanka - how up to date is Sri Lankan research on treatments..are they as advanced as Bangkok?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Rule number two, when you travel with people you know, be sure that they are properly trained and that they just dont fill a seat in your car...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Exact [Jung_Kee](#)...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Before to go on a field trip with somebody I want to meet the person...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Lunch, diner, coffee, week end...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The fact is that gem mining areas are not really touristic places...

[[FranQ](#)] sounds reasonable...no point taking rude unfriendly folk to spoil your relations with the contacts

[[vincent pardieu](#)] If I feel that I can enjoy traveling with somebody then I try on a short week end expedition...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] It is not about rude unfriendly people...

[Barbra] I would also imagine the GIA would not want to have the liability of an "accident".

[vincent pardieu] it is just that some people are not prepared for the field..

[TimQ] Vincent, field gemology question: how do you go about when collecting samples? What's the rules there?

[vincent pardieu] All the people who travel with me have to sign a legal paper that I have to provide to the GIA before the expedition...

[vincent pardieu] the GIA will take no responsibility for anything that may happen to somebody traveling with me...

[vincent pardieu] TimQ..

[TimQ] si senior

[vincent pardieu] Well I try to collect samples the closest possible from the mine and also by several independant channels as I can...

[vincent pardieu] I explained that at the end of the pdf about Pailin...

[vincent pardieu] Basically I try to mine myself the samples...

[TimQ] I'm asking because of all the fuss about the Tibet andesine

[FranQ] do you find the rule that the closer to the mine you get the more you are offered synthetics is still true?

[pixette] i am going to have to go sorry - thank you so much Vincent, thanks all..
pixxxx

User *pixette* has logged out.

[vincent pardieu] Last June I was able to witness some sapphire blasting in the mountains of Pakistan. I entered the tunnel first and was able to collect samples on matrix after the blast...

[FranQ] that's a sure way of getting stones from source

[vincent pardieu] Then I also collect samples from miners and if possible from different mining sites as may be the samples collected after the blast are not representative of the whole production of the mine...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ: Yes it is common to find synthetics on mining areas...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I found recently some synthetic blue spinels in Vietnam, they were very similar to the natural stones as they had been tumbled...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Some miners are commonly salting their parcels with synthetics in order to make it look better and have a better price...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So sometimes you go to the mines and you get a synthetic...

[[vincent pardieu](#)]

[[Annie](#)] that is very interesting -

[[vincent pardieu](#)] That's why you have to collect more than one sample, and from more than one miner...

[[Barbra](#)] Have you found any natural sources for inclusion free spinel?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] and the best is also to visit the mining area regularly...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Barbra: Yes there are inclusion free spinels in many countries...

[[FranQ](#)] Do you find now that you are "official" rather than an independant that the mine owners are more likely to treat you honestly?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Burma, Vietnam, Tajikistan, Madagascar, Sri lanka, Tanzania,...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ well most of the time gem miners have no idea about who I'm and they have no idea about what is GIA...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So there is no change...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Several time when I show my business card they feel that I'm working for the CIA...

[[AfriQanuck](#)]

[[AfriQanuck](#)] that's funny

[[AfriQanuck](#)] bet you don't do that in AFghanistan

[[TimQ](#)] hehe

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Many people in Asia and Africa dont read correctly the latin alphabet and for them a G or a C is very much alike...

[[FranQ](#)] lol. well many folks are

[[AfriQanuck](#)] any comments on spinel heat treatment?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Africanuck: Not really, but what do you mean?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i had read somewhere that there was heat treatment on the Mahenge spinels to remove the haziness

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes i read that too...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] was wondering if you had run into that

[[AfriQanuck](#)] and if you had seen it with any other localities

User *mbI* has logged out.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I saw some heated spinels from time to time, but they are rare to my knowledge...

User *mbI* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The fact is that I prefer to work on origin determination of gemstones than on treatments...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] so I dont really spend my week ends searching about treatments.

[[AfriQanuck](#)] Ok. thanks

[[vincent pardieu](#)] on the other hand, I got really excited about new deposits or deposits I dont have yet visited,...

[[alberto](#)] Does GIA owns an LA-ICP-MS in BKK?

[[FranQ](#)] Do all the origin questions require large lab equipments?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Yes, sure...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] that was for Alberto..

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ: yes and no...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I mean anybody can have an opinion about the origin of this or that stones...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] now it beocmes more difficult when you want to back that opinion with facts...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] It means first that you need to have a very good reference collection...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] and that you need to have studied all the stones of that collection..

[[vincent pardieu](#)] in order to be able to compare a given stones to the data you have and be able to reach a conclusion based on facts not only on opinions...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So well yes you need to spend a lot of time collecting reliable reference samples and then documenting them and study them...

[[FranQ](#)] Does the reference library of stones you are helping to collect include all coloured stones or just corundum and spinel?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Usually a young gemologist needs several years to be able to feel comfortable with origin determination of lets say rubies and sapphires... but even then aftyer 10 or 20 years of experience and research in some cases it is still a real challenge.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ: So far we decide to focus on the main problem we have everyday in the lab: I mean ruby, sapphires and emeralds... But I collect also all types of gemstones depending of the opportunities....

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Last year I visited Northern Tanzania, I went to several ruby and Sapphire mining areas, but I also went to visit tsavorite, Tanzanite, tourmaline and garnet mines...

[[FranQ](#)] do you collect stones for your own collection as well as GIA's

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But my focus is still on ruby and sapphire... There is still a lot to do as it is only 2 years I'm doing that for the GIA Lab

User *phyllisQ* has logged out.

User *phyllisQ* has entered this room.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I've not yet visited for the GIA all the ruby and sapphire mines over the world...

[[FranQ](#)] has this become your lifes work then...to be an expert on origins? or is just another learning curve on your road through life?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ: Well things are simple regarding that: I show all the stones I buy to my boss.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] He usually take them all...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So for the last 2 years my own collection did not increased much...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But no problem.

[[Barbra](#)] Will you be attending the Tucson Show 2011?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ: My interest for the origin of gemstones was there at the very beginning of my passion for gemology...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] It is just that before when I was telling that I wanted to go to visit the mines people were asking: What for?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Now after 9 years I found a lab willing to hire me to do what I really enjoy doing:

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Working on origin determination of gemstones building for that lab the best reference collection I can...

[[FranQ](#)] thats nice but you deserve it...you have worked hard for it

[[Annie](#)] that is a dream come true - isn't it.. Vince ?

[[TimQ](#)] ey guyzz, I'm off and have it logged until here...

User *maialetto* has logged out.

[[Annie](#)] you truly deserve Gia's respect

[[FranQ](#)] Canuck have you got the log from here?

[[TimQ](#)] someone figured out yet how do copy it?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes you can say that Annie, it is like a dream becoming true... But it is als a great challenge!

[[AfriQanuck](#)] yes, i'll log from here

[[TimQ](#)] sweet

[[AfriQanuck](#)] yes, control C to copy and Control V to paste

[[Annie](#)] great challenge, I wish I was in that position. Good for you Vince

User *maialetto* has entered this room.

User *mb1* has logged out.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well you can be in that position if you really want to...

[[TimQ](#)] tata everyone, cheers Vincent fro taking the trouble

User *TimQ* has logged out.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I mean, it is mainly a question of motivation and then of organization...

[[Jung_Kee](#)] And personality I'd wager. Takes a certain talkative fellow to get people to open up to you!

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Let people know what you want to do and show them that you can do some good job...

[[Annie](#)] yep definatly

[[FranQ](#)] Do you still visit Myanmar?...your old teachers?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Jung_Kee what do you mean?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ Not recently. But soon I hope...

[[FranQ](#)] I think he's saying you are personable and charismatic

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ, what do you mean by personable? (Sorry I'm French)

[[Jung_Kee](#)] VP: I mean that you seems to have a very nice personality that makes people want to talk with you!

[[Annie](#)] you have a great personality

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Ok, well I try at least...

[[FranQ](#)] oui ca

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Haha you're nice enough to sit here with us gemmo geeks at least!

[[vincent pardieu](#)] It is somthing I learned in Burma and later in Thailand before to be a lab gemologist...

[[FranQ](#)] and of course that personality is a must for a tour guide

[[vincent pardieu](#)] You can do a mistake on a stones, it is not very important most of the time, but it is important not to make too many mistakes on people when you work in the gem trade... so it is better to try to be nice.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Yes my past as a tour guide helps me a lot...

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Yeah, that's what I meant with it being important too, besides motivation and organization

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I learned then not to judge people...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] and also to give each people some attention: Rich or poor, nice or not...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] It is important in the field...

[[Barbra](#)] It's important in life

[[vincent pardieu](#)] when you are lets say in the middle of nowhere in Africa surrounded by 3000 miners...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] with very different backgrounds...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The you want the good guys to help you and you dont want to bad guys to wish you trouble...

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Sound wisdom

[[vincent pardieu](#)] This is for this type of situation that I select carefully the people traveling with me...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] and for many others...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] what about walking 12 hours in Madagascar jungle?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] sleep in malaria infested areas?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] or take the risk to meet bandits...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] ever had malaria Vince?

[[FranQ](#)] yes but few fences...electric pylons etc...Africa is a great place

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes I got it.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I think I got it from mosquitoes in Andilamena ruby mines in Madagascar.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I got sick about 3 weeks later near Uмба in Tanzania...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Then thanks to my traveling companion I was bale to make it...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] able to make it... sorry..

[[vincent pardieu](#)] When you are sick in the field it is important to have somebody you can trust with you...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Again it is about selecting the right team to travel with you.

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i wouldn't want to have a malaria attack in the bush somewhere

[[AfriQanuck](#)] it's bad enough when you are at home

[[FranQ](#)] or dysentery

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I agree, but usually few people can choose...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes few weeks after my travel buddy got dysentery...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i imagine you take the preventive treatments before and while you travel?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] and after, of course

[[vincent pardieu](#)] then we got arrested by the local immigration police who wanted to put us in jail...

[[FranQ](#)] in Tanzania?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] as we had only a tourist visa...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Yes

[[vincent pardieu](#)] it was in Tunduru...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] are they strict, or did they just want money?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The immigration officer told me that with our tourist visa we could go to see lions in the serengeti but to speak with people in Tunduru we were needing a special visa...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] they tried to show me that they were strict...

[[FranQ](#)] how much?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] hehehe

[[AfriQanuck](#)] my question exactly

[[Annie](#)] you have a great personality

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[[vincent pardieu](#)] it was in Tunduru...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] are they strict, or did they just want money?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] The immigration officer told me that with our tourist visa we could go to see lions in the serengeti but to speak with people in Tunduru we were needing a special visa...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] they tried to show me that they were strict...

[[FranQ](#)] how much?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] hehehe

[[AfriQanuck](#)] my question exactly

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well lets say that after 3 hours of tough discussion I was able to avoid spending 3 days in jail...

[[Barbra](#)] Is there really another type of Visa available?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I told them basically that they could put us in jail if they wanted but then they would have to explain why to the french embassy who would be noticed about what happened to us very soon...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] after 3 hours they decided that it would be better for everybody if we could be friends instead of create problems to each other.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes you can get a business visa... This is what I do now.

[[alberto](#)] darn..

[[vincent pardieu](#)] at this time it was in 2005 that was my first time in Africa...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Now I've learned...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] that and many other useful things...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] not to be in troubles...

[[FranQ](#)] I was there in the early eighties..it's where I first got the gem bug

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Wow Tanzania in the early 80's that was probably very nice...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i imagine that you actually can do to tunduru with a tourist visa though

[[AfriQanuck](#)] go to, i meant

[[FranQ](#)] yes very nice and friendly and the gem trade was pretty new then

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes, you can go to Tunduru with a tourist visa...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] as I did...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] just don't talk business to anyone?

[[FranQ](#)] what are your plans for the future? Where would you like to go from here?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Well I tried to explain the concept of gemological tourism... they dont want to understand. In fact most people dont listen your arguments in such cases, but only theirs...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So well you have to get organize and think that there are some good chances that here or there some guys will want to get in troubles with you.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] So you have to get ready for that...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i would guess that they thought you were gem buyers who had money to spend, so why not throw a little their way

[[AfriQanuck](#)] how corrupt is tanzania on a day to day basis?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ My plan are to continue to scout ruby and sapphire mining areas in South East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and East Africa... in order to make the GIA reference stone collection even better.

[[FranQ](#)] I always found offering to buy them dinner helped...it's not so brazen as offering a bribe

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Tanzania is not very corrupt.

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i used to drop off a six pack for the road block guys in cameroon

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I had that bad experience, but in all the other areas I got a lot of support from the local authorities...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] There are bad people everywhere...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] that's very true

[[Annie](#)] Vince, thank you for the chat,

[[FranQ](#)] have you plans to visit China?

[[Annie](#)] I am logging off as I am off to bed - thank you everybody

[[AfriQanuck](#)] night annie xx

[[FranQ](#)] bye Annie

[[Barbra](#)] Bye

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I visited 3 times tanzania for each time about a month: I got only a problem once... So it is in fact very fine.

User *Annie* has logged out.

[[vincent pardieu](#)] yes I've plans to visit China. There are some deposits I would like to visit there...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] or visit again.

[[FranQ](#)] there is a forum member China Sapphire (Alex) who's famili run a sapphire mine...maybe he can help you there

[[vincent pardieu](#)] I know Alex, we met several times and indeed I would love to visit Shandong one of these days...

[[vincent pardieu](#)] But so far my focus is more on metamorphic type deposits than on basalt related ones...

[[FranQ](#)] well you are in the right location for that

[[vincent pardieu](#)] what about you guys? Any plans to visit gem mining areas?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] conservation mining... is it a coincidence that you were talking about it on your website, and now Richard Hughes is working for a company that is or intends to do it? How do you see something like that working, mining is not a kind process

[[vincent pardieu](#)] FranQ you are right, this is why GIA and I agreed that bangkok was the best place for me to be based.

[[FranQ](#)] I'm in the middle of bringing up kids but once they are grown my wife and I both plan to travel again

[[Jung_Kee](#)] Ok guys, gotta go, I've the log unto here, hope someone else will be able to log the rest!

[[AfriQanuck](#)] i'm on it JK

[[FranQ](#)] e-mail it to me JK thanks

[[Barbra](#)] Will you be attending Tucson 2011?

[[AfriQanuck](#)] ditto for the kids thing, but who knows, maybe my husband's next transfer will take us somewhere with gem production

[[vincent pardieu](#)] AfiQanuck: Not really... any link. Except that when I told to Richard about my proect to build conservation gemology.org he told me that we had to visit a place together...

[[AfriQanuck](#)] will that be one of the mines belonging to the company he's with?

[[vincent pardieu](#)] Barbra: No I dont think that I will go to Tucson... I want to focus on things between the field and the lab.

[[AfriQanuck](#)] or somewhere that is a pilot for this sort of thing?

[vincent pardieu] Well indeed Richard asked me to visit with him the mine of one of his friends in Laos. I visited the area several times but I was so far never able to visit the Chinese mining operation there...

[FranQ] Did your attempt to start conservational mining in Madagascar get anywhere yet or is it still an ongoing project (or even just still on your wish list)

[vincent pardieu] It happened that this chinese company was for a while trying to do something about Conservation gemology... I was surprised. It was a great surprise...

[maialetto] Gotta go... Thanks for this interesting chat!

[vincent pardieu] I dont try to star any conservation mining project... I'm just a gemologist

[vincent pardieu] I'm not a miner or a dealer...

[AfriQanuck] so, are you going to Laos then?

[vincent pardieu] I just visit gem mines and decided to build that new website to show to people some of the good ideas I've witnessed here or there...

[vincent pardieu] I visted the mine in Laos... But they asked me then not to publish anything as they wanted to have some result before to make some public annougements..

[vincent pardieu] So I stayed quiet...

[vincent pardieu] No problem: I got some new reference stones for the lab and some data that would be useful later.

[vincent pardieu] I hope that I will return there soon to see the work they did since last year.

[AfriQanuck] without asking for details then, were you pleased with however it is that they are approaching it

[vincent pardieu] Yes, as I said in the small blog announcing Richard departure there, it was looking great.

[AfriQanuck] will look forward to more news on it when you can write about it

[vincent pardieu] And well, I know Richard well, he will not go to work for bad people...

[vincent pardieu] Well for me it just make sense...

[AfriQanuck] no, I imagine he wouldn't.

[vincent pardieu] One of the main problem in the gem trade is marketing.

[vincent pardieu] There are many gem mining areas doing some very conservation friendly mining... but they dont communicate about that.

[vincent pardieu] Too bad...

[AfriQanuck] I imagine it's more expensive to mine like that

[vincent pardieu] Not really...

[AfriQanuck] oh, well that's good then, less of a barrier to others deciding to do the same

[vincent pardieu] It all depends...

[FranQ] I think it'd need government legislation to make it happen everywhere

[vincent pardieu] Near Chanthaburi, most of the sapphire mining operation can be seens as a great exemple of conservation mining..

[vincent pardieu] Not really FranQ

[vincent pardieu] The main requirement is in fact that somebody owns or care about the land...

[phyllisQ] then why didn't tell people about they are doing great on conservation mining?

[vincent pardieu] when a farmer in Vietnam or in Chanthaburi make a deal with a gem minign to mine for gems under his rice field...

[vincent pardieu] he usually ask the miner to put back the rice field in place in order for him to continue to use the land for agriculture after the mining to be finished...

[vincent pardieu] then for one year or two people mine, the farmer get some capital and thank to that buy some new land or a new house...

[FranQ] so everyone wins...I like that

[vincent pardieu] Well in Thailand most people coming to buy gems in Chanthaburi never visit the mines...

[vincent pardieu] Many believe that mining is finished,...

[AfriQanuck] these are alluvial deposits, right?

[vincent pardieu] Yes, in Chanthaburi and for the rice field in Vietnam.

[Barbra] Do the buyers in Chanthaburi care about mining conditions? Do they ask questions or just buy product?

[vincent pardieu] Most buyers coming to buy in Chanthaburi just stay at the gem market, some people are interested in the origin of the gems, but not that many.

[vincent pardieu] Many people in the gem market in Chanthaburi don't even know where is Mozambique...

[vincent pardieu] As most of the people in Europe or the US...

[AfriQanuck] i was just thinking that

[FranQ] Which tests are you doing on your reference collection other than normal gemmologist tests

[vincent pardieu] Just have fun showing a world map around and ask people to show you where is Mozambique...

[Barbra] I know, they point to Australia....

[phyllisQ] hehee.. I am just googling

[vincent pardieu] FranQ: Well all...

[vincent pardieu] I mean we test them in all the way we can...

[vincent pardieu] from microscope to LA-ICP-MS

[vincent pardieu] Barbra... Could be worse...

[FranQ] how many stones are in the collection...from how many known sources?

[Barbra] How many people are working at GIA's Lab in Bangkok?

[vincent pardieu] FranQ, there are many stones in the GIA reference collection> I dont know how many as the GIA has started its reference collection many eyars before my birth...

[vincent pardieu] But well, I guess that if I want to be strict I added probably around 200,000 stones to the collection.

[vincent pardieu] But well most of them are very small... LOL'

[AfriQanuck] heh, was just thinking about the luggage allowance you must have

[vincent pardieu] You see I collect stones at the mine and most fo the time most of the stones if they are gem quelity are very small...

[FranQ] wow...if the stones are in the US can you request them to be sent to BKK if you want to check them against others...or do you just request the data?

[vincent pardieu] But to be mroe serious.

[vincent pardieu] Some stones are taken then as individual while other are let in parcels...

[vincent pardieu] During the last 2 years I collected more than 7000 interesting individual stones on expeditions to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

[vincent pardieu] The stones I colelcted are still in Bangkok.

[vincent pardieu] We have build a special lab to work to document them and work on them...

[Barbra] Again, How many people are working at GIA's Lab in Bangkok?

[vincent pardieu] About 40...

[alberto] do you need them to have at hand for comparsion or it's enough to have data collected?

[vincent pardieu] Alberto... Well, first we have to collect the samples.

[vincent pardieu] Then we have to document them.

[vincent pardieu] and build a database to find them easily...

[FranQ] have they trained you to use the LA-ICP-MS, spectrometers etc or are they operated by technicians?

[vincent pardieu] That means that each stone is weighted, photographed, given a bar code, and that all the details about the place where the stone comes from are associated with each stone.

[vincent pardieu] Then the stones are checked to decide what to do with them...

[vincent pardieu] Then if the stone is found to be interesting we will work on it.

[vincent pardieu] first usually polish some windows parallel and perpendicular to the C-axis in order to get good spectra...

[vincent pardieu] then take photos of the inclusions, and identify these inclusions with Raman...

[vincent pardieu] get the spectra FTIR, UV-Vis...

[vincent pardieu] and get the chemistry with LA-ICP-MS and EDXRF...

[AfriQanuck] is the data and info kept strictly for the GIA's use, or do they sell it to other labs as well?

[vincent pardieu] and of course, check the UV reaction and all the n=standard gemological tests...

[vincent pardieu] AfriQanuck: No idea. I have to admit that I never asked myself that question...

[AfriQanuck] ok

[vincent pardieu] I don't think that GIA is selling any stones to any other lab. I never heard about that I mean...

[Barbra] How diagnostic are the results? Can a sapphire from Madagascar be differentiated from a sapphire from Sri Lanka with certainty? Or is it speculative?

[AfriQanuck] not stones, but results I meant

[alberto] don't think so Julie..

[alberto] data could be more precious than samples sometimes...i guess

[alberto] *datas

[FranQ] do you use all the equipment yourself or do they use technicians to operate them

[vincent pardieu] FranQ: I had a training about LA-ICP-MS in France long time ago... On some specific projects like the story of the new rubies from Mozambique, I spent some time with the People using LA-ICPMS everyday at GIA...

[FranQ] ok thanks...that must be interesting

[vincent pardieu] but usually I focus on my part of the job... In fact with the arrival of very complex instruments like LA-ICP-MS gemology is becoming even more than before a team work.

[FranQ] What equipment do you take into the field when you are on a trip

[vincent pardieu] each has a speciality but it is nevertheless important to be able to replace each other in case... at least for short periods.

[vincent pardieu] The most powerful instrument in the field is a good brain...

[vincent pardieu] But usually I have with me a GPS, a camera, a computer,,,

[AfriQanuck] barbra had a question earlier: [Barbra] How diagnostic are the results? Can a sapphire from Madagascar be differentiated from a sapphire from Sri Lanka with certainty? Or is it speculative?

[vincent pardieu] some pocket instruments: Loupe, dark field loupe, dichroscope and hand spectroscope...

[vincent pardieu] Africanuck: Well to my knowledge in many cases it is very difficult to separate blue sapphires from Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Burma and Tanzania.

[vincent pardieu] so far I focussed mainly for GIA on rubies as since 2008 there was these new rubies from Mozambique and also many stones from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan...

[vincent pardieu] I started focussing on blue sapphire last summer visiting Ilakaka and Andranondambo...

[vincent pardieu] I have not yet visited for the GIA Sri Lanka, Burma or Tunduru...

[FranQ] Will the US ban on Myanmar rubies prevent you from collecting stones for the GIA in this area?

[vincent pardieu] So it is still a very difficult issue and in many cases it is very difficult to be too affirmative... thus we issue reports with "probable origin"

[vincent pardieu] and we continue to do research...

[vincent pardieu] For some stones it is very easy, for some it is very difficult...

[vincent pardieu] it is all the problem...

[alberto] and sometimes impossible?

[vincent pardieu] You see Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Tanzania were once attached as the US and lets say canada... The sapphires in these 3 countries were formed during the same geological event and they share many common features...

[vincent pardieu] Sometimes i would like to give "Gondwana" as origin... But well people dont like it...

[AfriQanuck] hehe

[vincent pardieu] so we give usually " No Origin" in such cases...

[vincent pardieu] people dont like it either...

[vincent pardieu] so it is not an easy job...

[barbra] Recently a forum member sent a sapphire to Gubelin, AGL and GIA for an origin report and he got 3 different "probable" localities

[TimQ] hehe

[alberto] wow..

[AfriQanuck] i hope he kept the burmese one

[alberto] or maybe teh Kashmir...

[vincent pardieu] Well If you let me select well the stone I can probably also get the same result... Some stones are real challenges.

[vincent pardieu] And each lab has its own reference collection...

[vincent pardieu] Some lab do a lot of research on origins, other not...

[alberto] i think it's the same about datas collected with advanced gears

[vincent pardieu] Alberto what do you mean?

[alberto] you have samples, instruments and data collected with those gears

[vincent pardieu] Well not only:

[AfriQanuck] what is a gear albe?

[FranQ] Vincent you have been in the spotlight for almost three hours...I'm not chasing you but say when you have had enough

[alberto] different lightsources

[alberto] spectrometers

[AfriQanuck] thx

[vincent pardieu] the stones are different, the instruments are may be different, the gemologist are also different...

[alberto] yep, what i mean

[alberto] so the datas could be strictly useful only for that collection and those instruments

[vincent pardieu] Labs located on different markets have also different problems...

[vincent pardieu] In Bangkok most of the stones we see are freshly mined... so we have to focus our research on stones from new origins, as we are in the front lines.

[vincent pardieu] When I was working at Gubelin things were very different: I saw there a lot of stones I never saw while working in bangkok as the lab was located in a consuming market...

[alberto] a lot of "old" stuffs?

[alberto] kshmir & mogok a go-go..

[vincent pardieu] At Gubelin I saw many Thai rubies, Kashmir sapphires, Burmese rubies from Mogok... In Bangkok we dont see these days many of such stones as these mines are not producing much nowadays...

[FranQ] at Alberto

[alberto] ditto...:)

[vincent pardieu] yes the thing is gemstones are very durable...

[vincent pardieu] There are many fine Mogok rubies and Kashmir sapphire around Geneva...

[alberto] and sometimes in Basel too...

[vincent pardieu] Well Basel is not far from Geneva... But you can extend that to Europe.

[vincent pardieu] Paris is not far either.

[alberto] was joking Vince

[vincent pardieu] I was guessing so...

[vincent pardieu] So things are difficult as lab in Switzerland, Bangkok and New York can have different type of problems and then will tend to focus their research on the problems they have...

[FranQ] Nice to be at the cutting edge side of things I guess...getting to observe the new localities and origins

[vincent pardieu] So a medium size lab (I dont speak about GIA as we are located in Carlsbad, New York and Bangkok)...

[FranQ] the old ones have been studied for years

[vincent pardieu] it is difficult to focus on what happen on the other side of the earth...

[vincent pardieu] FranQ... That's not really true...

[vincent pardieu] What was mined in the old years is not what is mined today...

[FranQ] but the old stones have been around and studied for years

[vincent pardieu] In an area like Mogok, different mines produce stones slightly different.

[vincent pardieu] thus if you have in your reference collection only old Mogok stones, then you might make a mistake with a stone recently mined...

[vincent pardieu] I guess that you believe that mining areas have an homogeneous production...

[vincent pardieu] In many cases it is not 100% true..

[FranQ] even close by mines have differences...this must make the origin opinion much more difficult

[vincent pardieu] In Mogok there are 4 or 5 areas producing blue sapphires...

[FranQ] No I always assumed that one valleys mines would always produce the same stones

[vincent pardieu] some were mined for many years and some were only mined recently. The problem is that the sapphires from these mines are quite different from each other (to my knowledge...)

[FranQ] or at least the same chemically

[vincent pardieu] In Mogok you have many different valleys...

[FranQ] that must make your job much more difficult

[FranQ] yes well by valley I guess I meant geographical area

[barbra] It is my understanding that a gem can vary chemically within itself.

[alberto] So the 3 different origin reports Barbra said make sense now....:}

[vincent pardieu] Mogok valley... Kyatpyin valley, Chaung Gyi valley, Barnardmyo valley, the area around Kyauk Pya that is a different one and last year most of the sapphire were mined from a valley near Kin...

[FranQ] it's interesting that Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Madagascar stones are very similar yet in Mogock they can be very different

[TimQ] heh

[vincent pardieu] Well Mogok is a very unique place: not many gem mining areas produce such a variety of fine quality gems...

[vincent pardieu] Well sapphires from madagascar can be quite different, there are in fact different types...

[vincent pardieu] I know more than 20 sapphire deposits in Madagascar...

[vincent pardieu] The most known is Ilakaka...

[vincent pardieu] But it is a deposit about 150km long by 100km wide...

[vincent pardieu] I dont know many people who can say that they visited all the sapphire mining area around Ilakaka...

[vincent pardieu] and can prove to me that all Ilakaka sapphires are the same.

[vincent pardieu] Then you have Andranondambo...

[vincent pardieu] With about 4 or 5 different sub mining areas.

[FranQ] It sounds like an impossible task your trying to do to define each...good luck though

[vincent pardieu] Local people with experience can amazingly tell you while looking at a crystal the village where it was mined from...

[alberto] well just have alook the the latest G&G poster about mines localities...

[vincent pardieu] yes, Just look at Madagascar... It is just amazing!

[alberto] yup, what i mean!

[alberto] so we should start to province or village origin then....

[vincent pardieu] I spend 3 weeks in July scouting only Ilakaka area... we did most of what we wanted to do, but still we were not able to visit all the minign villages there and collect samples from all of them...

[vincent pardieu] I dont mean that...

[FranQ] Do you collect information on the area to be visited or wait for local knowledge when you get there...or is it a bit of both?

[vincent pardieu] But I mean that this is not because you have let's say 20 sapphires from Madagascar that look the same that all the sapphires from Madagascar look the same...

[vincent pardieu] particularly if in fact all these sapphires were collected from the same dealer and in fact coming from the same village...

[vincent pardieu] I prepare my expeditions... of course.

[vincent pardieu] I collect all the information I can... Books, articles, maps...

[vincent pardieu] Then I meet people who visited the place regularly and recently.

[vincent pardieu] Then I try to find a reliable local contact to help me there...

[vincent pardieu] You need somebody with you know knows the local people, speak their language, and know where are the mines...

[vincent pardieu] Then when you have enough information, you can start to think about the right team and the right time to visit the area...

[vincent pardieu] It is better to visit a mining area when people are mining...

[vinc [vincent pardieu](#)] Not easy...

[FranQ] not in the rainy season

[AfriQanuck] how long does it typically take to you set one of these trips up, not including the Thai ones

[vincent pardieu] Well in some cases there is no choice...

[vincent pardieu] If you plan to travel by land with a car on dirt roads, the rainy season is to avoid...

[vincent pardieu] Now if like in Madagascar, you plan to walk in the jungle, it is ok...

[vincent pardieu] I mean it is Ok if you are fit enough to follow the local miners on a 2 days hike in the jungle...

[alberto] ..under the rain

[vincent pardieu] Africanuck. Well if I go in a mining area I visited already it can be arranged quite rapidly...

[vincent pardieu] as I have already usually some reliable local contact and some first hand information about the place... usually one or two phone calls are enough to plan something depending of the local situation and the availability of my local contacts...

[vincent pardieu] Now for places I never visited it can take years... or I have to agree to take many risks. This is what happened in Mozambique in 2009.

[vincent pardieu] I had very few local contacts there. In fact we wanted to visit the new ruby deposit in Niassa and the tourmaline deposit near Nampula. Bredna laurs from GIA put me in contact with the Tourmaline miner he already visited. That was great...

[vincent pardieu] But well our contact tried his best to help us for the ruby deposit but he never went there... In fact we ended with 3 days under arrest in the bush.

[FranQ] police or Army?

[AfriQanuck] I'm surprised that the GIA doesn't have contacts with the Mining Ministries of most of these countries

[FranQ] mining ministers seldom visit the bush in Africa canuck

[vincent pardieu] at the beginning I had no idea: I just saw about 10 guys jumping out of the bush and running at us...

[AfriQanuck] i know, but they write laissez passer things

[FranQ] true

[vincent pardieu] within 5 second I had an AK47 pointed on my nose with a guy shouting in Portuguese some stuff that I had no idea about...

[AfriQanuck] ouch

[FranQ] yes heavy

[vincent pardieu] The fun stuff is that we had with us a technician for the ministry of mines...

[vincent pardieu] and a policeman in uniform with an AK47...

[AfriQanuck] so much for that thought

[FranQ] did they get arrested too?

[vincent pardieu] and of course an official paper form the mining office of the Niassa Province allowing us to visit the place...

[vincent pardieu] They got arrested too...

[vincent pardieu] If fact we had no idea about it.. but the mining site was located inside the Niassa National Reserve..

[vincent pardieu] and the people who arrested us were a mix force of Niassa Rangers, Immigration officier and hunting scouts...

[vincent pardieu] They had specific order to arrest anybody trying to reach the mining site..

[alberto] and the mining office wasn't aware about that of course....

[vincent pardieu] So we started a tough 3 days under arrest in the bush...

[vincent pardieu] the area was full of tsetse flies...

[vincent pardieu] and mosquitoes at night.

[FranQ] argh horrible things

[AfriQanuck] malarial things

[vincent pardieu] I was with 3 traveling companions..

[vincent pardieu] yes, malarial type for some of them at least...

[vincent pardieu] Thanks god, my 3 guys remained quiet...

[vincent pardieu] The first night was tough: We were not given any food, water or shelter.

[vincent pardieu] we had to sleep on the ground, without even a blanket.

[TimQ] note to self: always bring hammock

[FranQ] don't expect he had access to his bags

[TimQ] note to self: always bring a carton of smokes

[vincent pardieu] Well Our bags were in our car, 20 kilometers away in the bush... we were just then on what we were thinking to be a rapid scouting expedition.

[vincent pardieu] we were traveling on motorbikes...

[vincent pardieu] anyway.. after 3 days we were sent to jail in Lichinga...

[vincent pardieu] and there after 5 minutes we were released without charge.

[FranQ] so you never reached the mine.

[AfriQanuck] what did you spend those three days doing?

[FranQ] bush africans with guns sre pretty scary though I met a few

[vincent pardieu] But then the good thing was that I wa sable to get a contact at the Niassa National Reserve.

[FranQ] but three days is really scary shit

[FranQ] one of the rangers?

[vincent pardieu] Well the 3 days were nice in fact... Some of our guards were speaking a little bit of english and we discussed about Niassa, about the problems they had with illegal mining, etc...

[vincent pardieu] except one or two, most of our guards were nice...

[vincent pardieu] the second night they shared their food with us and we had then the best meal of the whole expedition...

[vincent pardieu] yes the rangers,...

[vincent pardieu] they were nice guys as they were working as safari scouts...

[vincent pardieu] When they saw that we were not here to make troubles things turned to be great...

[vincent pardieu] anyway, the good thing was that then I was in contact with the Niassa reserve. They visited my website and saw a little bit what I was doing... They decided then to invite me to visit the deposit...

[FranQ] nice

[AfriQanuck] who knew that blogging could save the day?

[vincent pardieu] So one month after our arrest I returned to Niassa with the support of the Reserve...

[alberto] it's good to have a cool website sometimes..

[vincent pardieu] There I met again most of the guys who arrested us...

[vincent pardieu] That was fun...

[vincent pardieu] I was able to do the job the GIA wanted me to do... meaning collect reference samples on site.

[vincent pardieu] and then they even invited me to give a presentation about the ruby trade at their annual congress in Pemba...

[FranQ] Do the mine prices differ significantly to what you'd pay in Chantaburi when your

[FranQ] buying there

[AfriQanuck] Did you do the conference?

[vincent pardieu] That was cool as I was still getting hard time to visit the second ruby deposit in northern mozambique: near Montepuez...

[vincent pardieu] I went to the conference...

[vincent pardieu] And there after 3 days networking I was able to get introduced to the person in charge of the area near Montepuez where rubies were found.

[vincent pardieu] After 2 more days he agreed to allow us to visit the mining site...

[vincent pardieu] As you see...

[AfriQanuck] getting arrested was a blessing in disguise

[TimQ]

[vincent pardieu] It is a lot about getting the right local contacts.

[AfriQanuck] i like that story

[alberto] yep

[FranQ] Sounds like you managed to get a good result in this case...good story

[vincent pardieu] yes, this is what I said to the Niassa people: The best thing that happened to us in Mozambique was to have been arrested, as this is the way we were able to get the right connections and finally to visit the 2 minign areas I had mission to visit...

[barbra] Loved the story

[vincent pardieu] is ti the first time you read it?

[alberto] no

[vincent pardieu] Thanks Alberto

[vincent pardieu] I was wondering...

[FranQ] No I read it on your site...but it's some how nicer to have you tell it directly

[phyllisQ] I went to Ken Scarlett talk in London, he mentioned about it

[barbra] It seems new in this format

[vincent pardieu] well it is even more fun I guess in a nice restaurant...

[FranQ] yes Barbra exactly...more real and colourful

[alberto] don't worry Vince, i guess many of us read your reports and are grateful to you for them

[vincent pardieu] Oh, Ken talekd about that in London?

[AfriQanuck] well, if you are in london, phyllis and I will gladly listen to it again over dinner

[AfriQanuck] right phyllis?

[phyllisQ] Yes.. Ken talked about it in GIA talk.

[vincent pardieu] My god...

[phyllisQ] Yes.. definitely.. Love to have dinner with Vincent ...:)

[vincent pardieu] How was the talk?

[FranQ] your pretty famous these day Vincent...even if your still the same nice person

[phyllisQ] He talked mainly about GIA Thailand, but have mentinoed you a lot in his talk..

[vincent pardieu] Ok, sounds good. He is a great boss. I love to work with him!

[phyllisQ] STar employee

[vincent pardieu] There is a great team here at GIA Bangkok, I feel very lucky about that.

[FranQ] I have a final question in my copy and paste list..I accidentaly pasted it earlier sorry

[FranQ] Do the mine prices differ significantly to what you'd pay in Chantaburi

[vincent pardieu] Well there is good and bad about beeing known...

[alberto] yeah, maybe you can introduce us to Nicholas Sturman in order to have another special Guest here

[vincent pardieu] Well I usually dont buy stones in Chanthaburi...

[vincent pardieu] My job is to get the stones at the mines, not in the Thai markets..

[vincent pardieu] I dont know the prices in Chanthaburi,... In fact I dont really know the prices at all...

[FranQ] then how do you decide how much to pay at the mine?

[vincent pardieu] When i see a nice stone, My first question is usually: Where is that beauty from? Than how much for that stone...

[barbra] Does the GIA give you a budget?

[phyllisQ] or do you haggle the price?

[vincent pardieu] Well at the mine it is usually easier, it mostly depends of the miner...

[vincent pardieu] Sure I try to negotiate... for the fun.

[vincent pardieu] Local people love that...

[vincent pardieu] I've no fixed prices, it depends of the quality of the stones, the quantity, the time we have, the fact that the miner is friendly or not,...

[vincent pardieu] If the miner spend all the day with us and inviste us for lunch it is different than if the miner is rude and show us only junk...

[vincent pardieu] There is no rule, I just try to give a faire price...

[vincent pardieu] I dont know much about faire trade but I try to get a fair deal...

[vincent pardieu] if at the end the miner is happy and me too then it is fine...

[FranQ] yes

[vincent pardieu] as i want the miner to be happy...

[vincent pardieu] because usually one or two years later I will comeback...

[vincent pardieu] or meet him in another mining area...

[AfriQanuck] and they will remember you

[vincent pardieu] then my life might depend of him..

[vincent pardieu] Yes many remember me..

[vincent pardieu] and are happy to see me again. They feel good to see that some foreigner are interested in their stones.

[vincent pardieu] and they are happy to get visitors...

[FranQ] do you take them treats?

[vincent pardieu] some of them visit my website after that and send me emails...

[vincent pardieu] FranQ... what do you mean?

[FranQ] When I was in Tanzania they had a lot of trouble getting some things...like plastic food containers which were easy in Kenya

[FranQ] I used to load up with things like that for the wives...or large bags of sweets for the kids

[FranQ] for the Lapis mines?

[vincent pardieu] Well I would love to visit diamond mines also... But well you see it is not really tourism, I like the things to be useful.

[vincent pardieu] There is not much about origin determination for diamonds as it is with rubies, sapphires and emeralds.

[vincent pardieu] yes I failed for the lapis mines...

[AfriQanuck] that's what I meant. I know there is no way to determine origin with diamonds, but who knows if one day they might not find something and some way to do so. No one stocks up samples just in case?

[vincent pardieu] I was able to visit again Jagdalek in July but not the lapis mines...

[FranQ] are they in a trouble area?

[vincent pardieu] Well I dont know regarding diamonds if people collect them based on their origins, I guess some people are doing as after all I'm probably not the only guy interested about where the stones he likes are coming from...

[vincent pardieu] Well FranQ, yes and no...

[vincent pardieu] Lets say that I was able to get quite close to the mines but for security reasons we decided to try another time...

[vincent pardieu] The lapis mines are located in the North East of Afghanistan in the Badakhshan province...

[vincent pardieu] A beautiful area...

[vincent pardieu] with some interesting new findings...

[vincent pardieu] You will see soon as I'm working on a pdf about these new stones...

[FranQ] we shall look forward to it

[vincent pardieu] I hope that it will be online before Christmas...

[AfriQanuck] and you said you don't play Santa

[TimQ] hehehe

[alberto] ok ppl ,gotta bring my daughter to a concert...darn...thank you very much for the chat Vincent:} , CIAO!!!!

[TimQ] ciao bello

[phyllisQ] ciao

[vincent pardieu] Bye Alberto...

[alberto] ciao a todos

[AfriQanuck] bye albe, my franck says hi too

[FranQ] bye Alberto

[vincent pardieu] So guys, any other question you like me to answer?

[alberto] say hi to Franck and to your lovely gals Julie!!

[AfriQanuck] I will xx to ur family

[AfriQanuck] no Vince, I think that you probably need some sleep

[vincent pardieu] Or should we wait to have the possibility one of these days to go for diner together here or there?

[TimQ] I think we have been enjoying enough of a treat

[FranQ] dinner sounds fine

[TimQ] thanks a bunch, mate and sweet dreams

[AfriQanuck] dinner sounds fabulous some day

[vincent pardieu] I hope that you were not bored with these field stuff...

[phyllisQ] yea.. would love to have dinner some day

[TimQ] are you kidding me?

[AfriQanuck] thank you so much for spending so much of your time today with us

[FranQ] I'm out of questions for the moment

[AfriQanuck] I'm not out of questions, but I am polite

[FranQ] That was a great chat Vincent Je vous merci

[vincent pardieu] Well if you pass in bagkok, please let me know...

[AfriQanuck] will do, if you pass in London, do the same

[vincent pardieu] there are many great restaurant around here...

[FranQ] I'm in France and you will be welcome chez moi

[vincent pardieu] Well London, not sure about ... I will pass in france in July 2011.

[AfriQanuck] true, if u r in corsica any time during holidays, you can also look me up there

[phyllisQ] or Hong Kong if I happen to be there too....

[FranQ] Well i'm in the west and you are welcome to visit

[vincent pardieu] Well not it will be as less time as I can in Paris... and as much time as i can near Bordeaux!

[TimQ] I'll do that sometime soon Frank

[FranQ] welcome bro...bit cold to sit out and sup though

[TimQ] and Vincent, I'm planning to go back travelling in july-august next year and will pass BKK for shure

[TimQ] sure

[vincent pardieu] I will probably be at the ICA congress in Barzil in may...

[vincent pardieu] If some of you are around...

[AfriQanuck] hmmm

[FranQ] will you sneak off for a field trip whikle in Brazil?

[vincent pardieu] Well July august, usually I', in Africa or in Central Asia...

[vincent pardieu] But well I might be in bangkok for few days...

[vincent pardieu] Just let me know about your schedule...

[TimQ] when I travel it's usually for 12-18 months

[TimQ] but no concrete plans yet

[vincent pardieu] I'm usually most of the time in Bangkok from November to May...

[TimQ] cool, good to know

[TimQ] allrighty guyz,

[TimQ] have a good one

[AfriQanuck] time for Vincent to get some sleep

[FranQ] Thanks again Vincent...great chat

[vincent pardieu] Then it is time to go to the field in Central Asia or East Africa

[vincent pardieu] Bye, thanks to all of you for the invite and all the best!

[TimQ] same Vincent

[TimQ] tata

User TimQ has logged out.

[AfriQanuck] bon nuit

[phyllisQ] bye Vincent

[FranQ] same

[phyllisQ] thank yiou very much

User vincent pardieu has logged out.